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Description of Consensus Standards Development Organizations

Appendix C is a discussion about the ANSI oversight of the creation, promulgation and use of standards in the U.S. ANSI's role in accrediting the procedures for SDOs for developing voluntary consensus standards and as the U.S. representative in ISO. ANSI accredits the various consensus based standards and SDOs important to the PPT Program. Fields or areas of specialty are discussed along with the structure and operation of SDOs to achieve open and balanced participation for developing standards.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

and

Standards Development Organizations (SDOs)

As the voice of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment system, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) empowers its members and constituents to strengthen the U.S. marketplace position in the global economy while helping to assure the safety and health of consumers and the protection of the environment.

ANSI oversees the creation, promulgation and use of thousands of norms and guidelines that directly impact businesses in nearly every sector: from acoustical devices to construction equipment, from dairy and livestock production to energy distribution, and many more. ANSI is also actively engaged in accrediting programs that assess conformance to standards – including globally-recognized cross-sector programs such as the ISO 9000 (quality) and ISO 14000 (environmental) management systems.

ANSI's mission is to enhance both the global competitiveness of U.S. business and the U.S. quality of life by promoting and facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems, and safeguarding their integrity.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has served in its capacity as administrator and coordinator of the United States private sector voluntary standardization system for more than 90 years. Founded in 1918 by five engineering societies and three government agencies, the Institute remains a private, nonprofit membership organization supported by a diverse constituency of private and public sector organizations.

National Standardization

ANSI facilitates the development of American National Standards (ANS) by accrediting the procedures of standards developing organizations (SDOs). These groups work cooperatively to develop voluntary national consensus standards. Accreditation by ANSI signifies that the procedures used by the standards body in connection with the development of American National Standards meet the Institute's essential requirements for openness, balance, consensus and due process.

At year-end 2006, about 200 standards developers were accredited by ANSI; there were more than 10,000 American National Standards (ANS).

In order to maintain ANSI accreditation, standards developers are required to consistently adhere to a set of requirements or procedures known as the *"ANSI Essential Requirements,"* that govern the consensus development process. Due process is the key to ensuring that ANSs are developed in an environment that is equitable, accessible and responsive to the requirements of various stakeholders. The open and fair ANS process ensures that all interested and affected parties have an opportunity to participate in a standard's development. It also serves and protects the public interest since standards developers accredited by ANSI must meet the Institute's requirements for openness, balance, consensus and other due process safeguards.

American National Standards are usually referred to as "open" standards. In this sense, "open" refers to a process used by a recognized body for developing and approving a standard. ANSI's definition of openness has many elements, but basically refers to a collaborative, balanced and consensus-based

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approval process. The content of the standards may relate to products, processes, services, systems or personnel.

In its role as the only accreditor of U.S. voluntary consensus standards developing organizations, ANSI helps to ensure the integrity of the standards developers that use *ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards*. A separate process, based on the same principles, determines whether standards meet the necessary criteria to be approved as American National Standards. The process for approval of these standards (currently numbering approximately 10,000) is intended to verify that the principles of openness and due process have been followed and that a consensus of all interested stakeholder groups has been reached.

The hallmarks of this process include:

- Consensus must be reached by representatives from materially affected and interested parties
- Standards are required to undergo public reviews when any member of the public may submit comments
- Comments from the consensus body and public review commenters must be responded to in good faith
- An appeals process is required

ANSI's use of the terms "open" and "openness" to describe standards is meant to characterize documents that have undergone this kind of consensus-based, transparent process. All ANSI-accredited standards developers follow the *Essential Requirements* which embrace globally-accepted principles of standardization implemented by well-recognized, international standards bodies such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

The ANSI process serves all standardization efforts in the United States by providing and promoting a process that withstands scrutiny, while protecting the rights and interests of every participant. In essence, ANSI standards quicken the market acceptance of products while making clear how to improve the safety of those products for the protection of consumers.

International Standardization

ANSI promotes the use of U.S. standards internationally, advocates U.S. policy and technical positions in international and regional standards organizations, and encourages the adoption of international standards as national standards where they meet the needs of the user community.

ANSI is the sole U.S. representative and dues-paying member of the two major non-treaty international standards organizations, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and, via the U.S. National Committee (USNC), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). As a founding member of the ISO, ANSI plays a strong leadership role in its governing body while U.S. participation, via the USNC, is equally strong in the IEC.

Through ANSI, the U.S. has immediate access to the ISO and IEC standards development processes. ANSI participates in almost the entire technical program of both the ISO and the IEC, and administers many key committees and subgroups. Part of its responsibilities as the U.S. member body to the ISO include accrediting U.S. Technical Advisory Groups (U.S. TAGs), whose primary purpose is to develop and transmit, via ANSI, U.S. positions on activities and ballots of the international Technical Committee. U.S. positions for the IEC are endorsed and closely monitored by the USNC Technical Management Committee (TMC).

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In many instances, U.S. standards are taken forward to ISO and IEC, through ANSI or the USNC, where they are adopted in whole or in part as international standards. For this reason, ANSI plays an important part in creating international standards that support the worldwide sale of products, which prevent regions from using local standards to favor local industries. Volunteers from industry and government, not ANSI staff, carry out the work of the international technical committees

ISO Technical Committee 94 (TC94) deals with PPT in general. There are several sub-committees under TC94:

- SC 1 – Head Protection
- SC 3 - Foot Protection
- SC 4 – Personal Equipment for Protection against Falls
- SC 6 – Eye and Face Protection
- SC 12 - Hearing Protection
- SC 13 – Protective Clothing
- SC 14 – Fire-Fighters' personal Equipment
- SC 15 – Respiratory Protective Devices